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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT TO COOPERATORS

FROM THE

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

FOR 1951

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SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

REPORT TO COOPERATORS

1951

This, our annual report on management of the Sierra National Forest, is designed to highlight accomplishment and to summarize events of the past year. Necessarily we have avoided many of the interesting and important details that enter into the multi-purpose administration of a land area of one and one-third million acres.

With the ever increasing awareness of the Federal Budget I believe you will be interested in the simple balance sheet at the end of this report. Cash receipts of $773,000.00 are more than double operating expenses of $350,000.00. The non-reimbursable benefits are of even greater significance.

In our efforts at brevity we may have given inadequate explanation to some of the points covered. Your inquiries or comments are welcome.

Sincerely,

Byron Beattie

BYRON LEATTIE
FOREST SUPERVISOR

I - WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

The Sierra snow pack holds, in storage, more water than has been measured since 1930 when State-wide snow surveys were initiated. Measurements of water content at some of the snow courses exceed April 1, 1938 figures. the last heavy water yield period. Values of all snow courses measured on February 1, 1952 indicate that even with minimum precipitation expectancy, summer runoff of the drainage basins on the Sierra National Forest should exceed the long period normal.

WATER UTILIZATION:

In October 1951, Southern California Edison Company completed construction of the sixth plant in their Big Creek-San Joaquin River power development. This project started in 1949 includes Dam #7 across the San Joaquin River above Horseshoe Bend having a height of 228 feet - crest length 954 feet and creating a storage reservoir of 35,000 acre feet. Water is diverted through a 24 foot tunnel for a distance of nearly five miles to the penstock and power plant where two turbines of 57,500 horsepower each generate 84,000 k.w. for California Agriculture, Industry, Business and Homes.

During 1951 the Edison Company also continued the exploratory work on the proposed Vermilion Valley and Mammoth Pool projects.

RESEARCH:

The Big Creek (Kings River) watershed experimental area has been reactivitated on a limited scale in cooperation with the California Forest and Range Experiment Station. The area was established to study runoff, under various degrees of use, in the grass and brush covered areas.

II - TIMBER MANAGEMENT

HARVESTING THE CROP:

Thirty and three-quarter million board feet of government timber were cut on the Sierra Forest in 1951. To increase the cut to the estimated allowable cut of 75-80 million board feet per year, construction of 86 miles of timber access roads are necessary. This will fully develop the main road system. The secondary roads will be built by the timber operator, the cost of which will be considered in the stumpage prices.

INSECT CONTROL:

The height of the insect situation appears to have passed. During the last year 1690 infected trees were removed and effectively treated. A new outbreak of the mountain pine beetle in the Miami Creek drainage, of the forest is being treated.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT:

Work during 1951 was limited to pruning and release cuttings in pine. The release cutting in addition to increase in pine production provided many Fir Christmas trees to the local market. A small reforestation job (43 acres) was completed in the Central Camp area brushfield and in small openings on logged areas. When compared to the 26,000 acre back-log of timber producing lands in need of planting this is a discouragingly minute rate of accomplishment.

DISEASE CONTROL: (White Pine Blister Rust)

1951 Accomplishments:

Hand Eradication	2875 Acres
Chemical Eradication	306 Acres
Contract Eradication	1031 Acres
Total	4212 Acres

Survey work is in progress to accurately determine the boundaries of areas which are considered as suitable for the growing of sugar pine. Approximately 15,000 acres were so delineated last year.

An area from which mature timber has been harvested under Forest Service supervision. Note the reserve stand of both large trees and reproduction, and absence of logging damage. Logging of National Forest land is done by private industry under contracts requiring compliance with good logging practices and protection of the residual stand.

South Fork Sawmill, owned and operated by private industry, converts the timber cut from National Forest land into lumber for farms and homes and box shook for agricultural crops; also providing employment for local woodsmen and millworkers and jobs in the San Joaquin Valley for workers in the box factories and building trades.

III - RANGE MANAGEMENT

DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK:

In 1951 the Forest range resource provided forage for 10,938 cattle and horses for a total of 35,824 animal months and for 1250 sheep for 5,082 animal months.

The 1951 use was slightly less than that of 1950.

WILDLIFE:

Deer: Based upon the best information available over 40,000 mule deer exist full time within the Sierra National Forest boundaries. A legal kill of about 2400 deer are taken annually from this herd by 25,000 big game hunters who spend an average of three days each or 75,000 man days hunting on the Forest.

Bear: A population of about 600 bear are found on the Forest. A legal kill of about 90 are taken annually by big game hunters. In addition to those classed as big game hunters about 2,000 small game hunters use the Forest for about 4,000 man days.

Hunter Registration was conducted at Shaver Lake for the first week of the season. This was a cooperative venture of the State Division of Fish and Game. In addition to valuable game management data it provides an informational service to hunters.

About 35,000 fishermen average 2 days each, making a total of 70,000 man days fishing on the Forest.

IV - RECREATION

With the continued increase in the State's population the ever increasing demands for public camping facilities have taxed some of our intensely used areas beyond their limit. Although water and sanitation have been given highest priority in an endeavor to meet the demand, it became necessary last summer to close the campgrounds at Bass Lake in the interest of public health. After a concerted effort by the Forest Service, resort owners and with some assistance from the campers, they were reopened on a limited use basis.

Our recreation area problem consists mainly of insufficient or inadequate sanitary facilities, unsatisfactory water systems, inadequate cleanup and garbage collection, over-crowding during peak periods, and accumulated deferred maintenance. Most of our problem is concentrated at Bass Lake, Dinkey Creek, Huntington Lake and Mono Hot Springs. The smaller recreation areas can be considered nearly satisfactory since simplicity is one of the objectives of such areas.

V - FIRE CONTROL

The 1951 season was about normal as to numbers of fires and their cause, with 82 fires of which 36 were lightning and 46 man caused. Of the latter number 4 were caused by lumbering, 6 by campfires, 17 by smokers, 1 by debris burning, 2 by incendiary and 16 by miscellaneous causes.

Acreage burned was 9,118 - previous five year average 1465. Suppression costs reached $88,500 previous five year average $42,200.

On July 8, a fire started by welding operations on the new road, being built above the Pine Flat Reservoir near Trimmer, burned over an area of 7,827 acres and cost $45,870 to suppress. Trespass proceedings have been initiated to obtain reimbursement of these costs.

We continued to receive the best of cooperation in our fire prevention efforts from newspapers, radio stations, sportsmen, civic organizations and individuals.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1951

ITEMS	EXPENDITURES		INCOME	
	Operating	Investment	Cash Receipts	Non-Reimbursable Benefits*
General Management Expense	46,200.	-	-	-
Timber Management	24,100.	162,100.	643,300.	-
Range & Wildlife Management	7,800.	400.	18,500.	41,000.
Watershed Protection & Management (Includes Fire Control)	149,800.	-	85,800.**	1,500,000.
Recreation Management	10,500.	-	25,600.	309,700.
Facilitating Improvements				
Misc. Improvements	26,000.	6,500.		
Roads & Bridges	78,500.	407,400.		
Horse Trails & Bridges	8,400.	7,100.		
TOTALS	351,300.	583,500.	773,200.	1,850,700.

*Non-reimbursable benefits are services for products of the Forest for which no income is received - Water Yield, Recreational Use, Forage for Wildlife and miscellaneous free use privileges.

** $72,000. of this amount is collected by the Federal Power Commission.

Twenty-five percent of National Forest receipts are returned to counties in lieu of taxes. Distribution of Sierra National Forest receipts for fiscal year 1951 were as follows:-

COUNTY	ACREAGE	PERCENT	RETURNED TO COUNTY
Fresno	854;282	63.60	$111;799.97
Madera	399;974	29.77	$ 52;344.63
Mariposa	89;024	6.63	$ 11;650.58
TOTALS	1,343,280	100.00	$175,795.18